



Cape Lookout National Seashore



Alternatives Options Workbook

Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement

APRIL 2008

Please Submit Completed Copies
of this workbook to
caloorveis@louisberger.com

Table of Contents

This workbook submitted by:

Name:

Address:

Email:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction	3
II. Regulatory Framework	6
III. Glossary of Terms	9
IV. Management Options for Public Input and Other Comments	11
1. ORV Management	12
2. Education and Outreach	19
3. Law Enforcement	24
4. ORV Permits	27
5. Other ORV Management Issues	33
6. Species Protection	37
V. Maps of Cape Lookout National Seashore	47

I. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Off-road vehicle (ORV) management has become an issue of concern in many National Park Service (NPS) seashore parks in recent years. Presently, at Cape Lookout National Seashore, ORVs are used for recreational fishing, sightseeing, travel to and from camping areas, and pleasure driving. The NPS recognizes ORVs must be regulated in a manner that is consistent with applicable law, including appropriately addressing resource protection (such as threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species) and potential conflicts among the various users at Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The Planning Process

Executive Order #11644 of 1972 requires that all federal land management agencies designate areas for ORV use and that the use of ORVs on public lands “will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various users of those lands.” In response to the Executive Order, Cape Lookout National Seashore initiated the ORV management planning process in August 2007 with the publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an ORV Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (plan/EIS). In September of 2007, the NPS held public scoping meetings to gain public input on the plan’s proposed purpose, need, objectives, and issues, which will serve as the framework in developing the plan. During the public scoping process, the public provided comments on the purpose, need, and objectives and also suggested potential management actions the NPS could implement at the Seashore. The NPS considered these suggested management actions and has compiled this information, and its own ideas, into potential alternative elements. This workbook’s alternative elements are not intended to be all inclusive, nor necessarily always compatible or mutually exclusive. Multiple compatible elements can be considered in combination later to develop a diverse range of management alternatives for evaluation in the Draft EIS. This range of potential alternative elements is now presented to you, through this public meeting and comment process, to gain additional input during the alternatives development process.

How You Can Help

The purpose of this workbook is to get your input on the draft alternative elements for managing ORV use at Cape Lookout National Seashore. Public input is an essential component of a successful management plan and it is important to us that you provide your opinion on the effectiveness of the alternative elements and suggest elements of your own.

Completing the Workbook

Immediately following the introduction, regulatory framework, and glossary sections, the workbook presents a series of tables providing alternative elements for ORV management at the Seashore. Each row of the tables provides an alternative element for you to consider and to provide input on how the particular management element could be improved or re-stated. After each of the six alternative element tables, a separate comment sheet is provided for you to offer additional input on any of the alternative elements, including providing new alternative elements that are not presented here. If you have downloaded this form, please note that only the text you

see in the comment box will appear when you print or submit the workbook. If you do not have enough room to discuss an element in a particular box, please provide the additional text on the comment sheet.

Please take time to complete as much of the workbook as possible. Also, please take advantage of the “comments” column on each of the tables and the separate comment pages at the end of each section. Your detailed comments and suggestions regarding the effectiveness of these alternative elements are critical to the success of the planning process.

Submitting the Workbook

If you attend a public meeting, you can turn in your completed workbook there. If you are mailing in your workbook, please send it to:

Attn: Wouter Ketel
Cape Lookout National Seashore
131 Charles St.
Harkers Island, NC 28531

This workbook can also be downloaded from <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/calor>, completed electronically, and emailed to caloorveis@louisberger.com.

Thank you for your participation.

II. Regulatory Framework

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Based on internal and public scoping, the purpose, need, and objective statements for the ORV management plan/EIS were developed. Please review the following statements, keeping them in mind as you complete the workbook. As mentioned, you are encouraged to provide comments on the alternative elements or suggestions for new alternative elements. However, any proposed new alternative elements must meet the purpose, need, and objectives established for this project to a large degree. If suggested alternative elements do not meet the purpose, need, and objective statements, they may not be considered in the planning process. The following pages present a wide range of potential alternative elements.

PURPOSE OF ACTION

“Purpose” is an overarching statement of what the plan must do to be considered a success. The purpose of the ORV Management Plan/EIS is to manage ORV use in compliance with the Seashore’s enabling legislation, NPS management policies, and other laws and regulations to ensure protection of the natural, cultural, and recreational values of the Seashore’s dynamic coastal barrier island environment for present and future generations.

NEED FOR ACTION

“Need” is an overarching statement of why action is required. An ORV management plan is needed to:

- Comply with Executive Orders #11644 and #11989 regarding ORV use, and with NPS laws, regulations (36 CFR 4.10), and policies to minimize impacts to Seashore resources and values.
- Establish an approved plan incorporating public input that reduces the potential for inconsistent management of ORV use, user conflicts, and safety concerns.
- Provide for sustainable recreational use.
- Protect natural and cultural resources from potential effects of ORV use.
- Provide for protected species management in relation to ORV and other uses, such that it can replace the Cape Lookout National Seashore Interim Protected Species Management Plan/EA and associated Biological Opinion.

OBJECTIVES IN TAKING ACTION

Objectives are “what must be achieved to a large degree for the action to be considered a success” (NPS Director’s Order 12 and Handbook: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making). Objectives must be grounded in the park’s enabling legislation, purpose, significance, and mission goals and must be compatible with direction and guidance provided by the park’s general management plan, strategic plan, and/or other management guidance.

The following are the draft objectives related to the development of an ORV management plan based on the above stated purpose and need:

Management Methodology

- Identify criteria to designate ORV use areas and routes.

- Establish ORV management practices and procedures that have the ability to adapt in response to changes in the Seashore's dynamic physical and biological environment.
- Continue an ongoing and meaningful dialogue with the multiple public groups interested in/affected by ORV management.
- Establish procedures for prompt and efficient public notification of beach access status including any temporary ORV use restrictions for such things as resource and public safety closures, storm events, etc.
- Build stewardship through public awareness and understanding of NPS resource management and visitor use policies and responsibilities as they pertain to the Seashore and ORV management.

Natural Physical Resources

- Minimize impacts from ORV use to soils and topographic features (e.g., dunes, ocean beach, wetlands, tidal flats, etc.).

Threatened, Endangered, and Other Protected Species

- Provide protection for threatened, endangered, and other protected species (e.g., state-listed species) and their habitats, and minimize impacts related to ORV and other uses as required by laws and policies, such as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and NPS laws and management policies.

Vegetation

- Minimize impacts to native plant species related to ORV use.

Other Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- Minimize impacts to wildlife species and their habitats related to ORV use.

Cultural Resources

- Protect cultural resources such as shipwrecks, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes from impacts related to ORV use.

Visitor Use and Experience

- Manage ORV use to allow for a variety of appropriate visitor use experiences.
- Minimize conflicts between ORV use and other uses.
- Ensure that ORV drivers are informed about the rules and regulations regarding ORV use at the park.

Visitor Safety

- Ensure that ORV management promotes the safety of all visitors.

Park Operations

- Identify core operational needs and associated costs to implement an ORV management plan.

III. Glossary of Terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Backroad – An ORV travel route behind the primary dune line providing access to beach areas without having to drive on the beach.

Buffer – The area of the Seashore surrounding a resource.

Carrying capacity – ORV carrying capacity is the type and level of ORV use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in the Seashore.

Concessionaire – A private company that operates commercial services for the park under a contract.

Essential use vehicle – Essential vehicles are those emergency, law enforcement, and seashore vehicles necessary to provide safety for recreationists, law enforcement, resource management, and maintenance of public property. They may access closed areas.

Full recreation closure – An area of the Seashore that is closed to all types of recreation (passive and ORV use).

Indicators for carrying capacity – Indicators are defined as specific, measurable physical, ecological, or social variables that reflect the overall condition of an area. Resource indicators measure visitor impacts on the biological, physical, and/or cultural resources of a park; social indicators measure visitor impacts on the visitor experience.

Interim Plan – The NPS-adopted management plan for species protection that is in place until the ORV plan/EIS is completed.

Off-road vehicle (ORV) – Any motorized vehicle designed for, or capable of, cross-country travel on, or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

ORV closure – An area of the Seashore that is closed to ORV use, but not necessarily closed to passive recreation.

Passive recreation – For the purposes of this plan/EIS, “passive recreation” includes non-motorized activities such as walking, sunbathing, fishing, picnicking, beach combing, surfing, and bird watching. Resource management activities would still be applicable in passive recreation areas. Passive recreation does not include the use of motorized vehicles.

Unfledged – A bird that is lacking the feathers necessary for flight.

IV. Management Options for Public Input and Other Comments

1. ORV Management

ORV Management

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved to be made more effective. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
1.A. Designation of ORV Access and Routes – Designate specific areas in the Seashore where ORVs are allowed in order to provide for public safety and to protect Seashore resources in accordance with all federal, state, and NPS laws and regulations.	
1.A.1 Designate all existing ramps, the backroad, and beach areas currently open to ORV use as ORV routes. (<i>status quo</i>)	
1.A.2 Keep the existing 6 ATV access points. (<i>status quo</i>)	
1.A.3 Keep the Seashore open to ORV access from March 15 – December 15 and allow winter vehicle use by Special Use only (December 16 to March 14). (<i>status quo</i>)	
1.A.4 Keep the Seashore open to ORV access from March 1 – December 1.	
1.A.5 Prohibit ORV use at the Seashore when vehicle ferries are not running during the winter from December 16 – March 14.	
1.A.6 Reconfigure existing ORV access system by designating different, additional, or fewer ORV access ramps and beach areas as ORV routes.	
1.A.7 Extend the backroad into areas where it currently does not exist (e.g. from the Cape to the jetty on South Core Banks to provide access around resource closures on the Cape and the potential closure of Cape Village to through traffic for historical reasons).	
1.A.8 Close the backroad to routine ORV access; open it only when the beach is closed for resource or safety related closures.	
1.A.9 When/if a new inlet opens due to storm activity and results in the formation of a small island, prohibit ORV and ATV access on the new island.	
1.A.10 Prohibit ORV access on North Core Banks from Ramp 9 north.	
1.A.11 Prohibit ORV access, ramp to ramp, beachside of Cape Lookout Village (MP 42 to MP 44).	

ORV Management

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved to be made more effective. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
1.A.12 Close the road that runs through Cape Lookout Village District to through ORV traffic and establish a new route bypassing the village.	
1.A.13 Limit ORV access from Ramp 9 north from May 1 - August 31, establishing times when an escort vehicle would be available to escort vehicles to Portsmouth Village or the inlet.	
1.A.14 Allow driving on the beach only on an established / designated corridor for ORV use (i.e. on the upper part of the beach.)	
1.A.15 Provide flexibility by designating ORV and passive recreation use areas with adjustable boundaries (e.g., if an ORV route is closed temporarily because of a full beach resource closure, the park could temporarily extend ORV use into a nearby passive recreation area to help offset the closure).	
1.B. Designation of Passive Recreation and Resource Protection Areas – Provides for a full range of visitor use experience at the Seashore while maintaining public safety and resource protection. Passive recreation areas may be designated for safety reasons at busier swim beaches and to give visitors an option for ORV-free beach areas.	
1.B.1 Keep current designated passive recreation and resource protection areas (on South Core Banks: at the Lighthouse - MP41 to MP42, and the Spit - MP 44 to MP 47). (<i>status quo</i>)	
1.B.2 Continue with current options for ORVs and pedestrians (ORVs are prohibited in all resource closures). Seasonal and safety closures exclude ORVs but allow pedestrian use. (<i>status quo</i>)	
1.B.3 Develop and define consistent names for designations of closures (e.g., seasonal closure, safety closure, etc.).	
1.B.4 Co-designate the three turtle relocation areas on each island as passive day-use recreation areas and where feasible, develop soundside access and trails from the soundside access to the beach at these areas.	

ORV Management

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved to be made more effective. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
1.B.5 Designate passive recreation areas and provide crossovers from the soundside to the beach at non-turtle relocation areas.	
1.B.6 Designate tent camping areas behind the primary dune line.	
1.B.7 Establish additional passive recreation areas. If so, where should they be created?	
1.B.8 Create passive recreation areas on either side of turtle nest relocation areas.	
1.B.9 Expand passive recreation areas in front of the lighthouse.	
1.C. Consistent Management Approach for Beaches in Front of NPS Camps – Provides for a full range of visitor use experience at the Seashore while maintaining public safety.	
1.C.1 Designate the lower beach in front of the camps on North Core Banks and South Core Banks as a passive recreation area, but allow an ORV pass through corridor (no parking) in front of camps on the upper beach.	
1.C.2 Close a one mile stretch of beach on either side of each camp to ORV use to facilitate passive recreation, including tent camping.	
1.D. Improve ORV Routes and Provision of Additional Amenities – Improves visitor use experience.	
1.D.1 Improve routine maintenance of access ramps and backroad.	
1.D.2 Provide more pull-outs along the backroad to facilitate vehicles passing.	
1.D.3 Improve signing of ramps, both on the beach and at the intersection of the ramp with the backroad.	
1.D.4 Provide additional restroom facilities, showers, water pumps, and dump stations to disperse high use areas.	
1.D.5 Provide additional water pumps at dispersed locations for tent campers. If so, where should they be provided?	

ORV Management

Options	Comments
	<p>Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved to be made more effective. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.</p>
1.D.6 Authorize concessioner-operated shuttle service from the camps up and down the banks as an alternative to personal vehicle use.	
1.E. Parking Lot Operations – Addresses parking lots on the Seashore.	
1.E.1 Keep size and location of parking lots per the 2007 Interim Plan: North Core Banks Lot at Long Point (capacity: approximately 32 vehicles); South Core Banks Lot at Great Island (capacity: approximately 126 vehicles); and South Core Banks Lot at Light Station (capacity: approximately 34 vehicles). (<i>status quo</i>)	
1.E.2 Relocate the parking lots to other areas.	
1.E.3 Increase the number of parking lots.	
1.E.4 Decrease the number of parking lots.	
1.E.5 Close all ORV parking lots at the Seashore year round.	
1.E.6 Increase parking fees at parking storage lots.	
1.F. Establish Vehicle & Equipment Requirements – To travel on seashore beaches certain vehicle and equipment requirements could be required.	
1.F.1 Do not establish new vehicle and equipment requirements. (<i>status quo</i>) <i>(Existing requirements are as follows: All vehicles operated on park roads, parking areas, and routes designated for off-road use must meet North Carolina traffic law at all times, whether in motion or parked, as if operating on North Carolina highways. ATVs and utility vehicles must comply with North Carolina Motor Vehicle and other applicable codes for both operation and equipment requirements. Except for ATVs and utility vehicles (such as "Gators"), all vehicles/trailers must be registered for operation on public roads and highways (for example, non-registered farm vehicles and trailers are not permitted.)</i>	

ORV Management

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved to be made more effective. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
1.F.2 Establish standards for tire size/type.	
1.F.3 Establish standards for vehicle type, length, width, and weight.	
1.F.4 Only allow four wheel drive (4WD) vehicles to access the Seashore.	
1.F.5 Only allow 4WD and all wheel drive (AWD) vehicles access to the Seashore.	
1.F.6 Allow any drive train vehicle access to the Seashore.	
1.F.7 Prohibit 2-stroke ATVs due to pollution and noise.	
1.F.8 Prohibit ATVs. ATVs can easily travel off route and in the dunes.	
1.F.9 Require that vehicles carry certain routine equipment (shovel, etc.).	

ORV Management

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential ORV management options below:

2. Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
2.A. Education and Outreach on ORV Management and Related Resource Protection Issues – Educating the public about the Seashore's resource protection issues and its rules and regulations helps to protect the resources and informs the public of what they can expect at the Seashore.	
2.A.1 Provide information about endangered species at the visitor center. (<i>status quo</i>)	
2.A.2 Provide educational and outreach materials regarding the impacts of trash disposal, wildlife feeding, fireworks, and pets on sensitive resources at the Seashore. (<i>status quo</i>)	
2.A.3 Post information about protected species (seabeach amaranth, sea turtles, piping plovers, etc.) at all ORV ramp bulletin boards. (<i>status quo</i>)	
2.A.4 Provide information about resource closures at ferry departures, printed information, the Internet, low power AM radio, automated phone message, and TV announcements.	
2.A.5 Partner with other federal, state, and local government agencies to develop and distribute joint information about ORV use and protection of beach resources.	
2.A.6 Require ORV users to watch an educational video at departure point, visitor center, on the ferry, on the Internet, or on a DVD.	
2.A.7 Provide the Crystal Coast Visitor Center in Morehead City with educational materials concerning responsible ORV use and resource closures.	
2.A.8 Provide regional visitor centers with educational materials concerning responsible ORV use and resource closures to increase regional awareness.	

Education and Outreach

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
2.A.9 Conduct evening interpretation/education programs at the camps regarding resource information.	
2.A.10 Provide an improved, color coded signage system on the Seashore website depicting types of closures, and update them daily or weekly.	
2.A.11 Distribute a “State of the Park” fact sheet annually.	
2.A.12 Provide roving interpreters at key beach driving locations to provide information on beach driving rules and beach resource protection.	
2.A.13 Hire more park staff to provide additional informal education/stewardship.	
2.A.14 Hire four additional temporary park staff to provide educational information, providing coverage 10 hours per day 7 days a week at Long Point and Great Island ferry landings.	
2.A.15 Submit a weekly article about Seashore resource issues (e.g., notes from the Superintendent) to the local newspaper.	
2.A.16 Improve signage in the Seashore so beach closures and Seashore resource information is readily available and presented in a clear manner to the public.	
2.A.17 Standardize signage at entry points and other appropriate locations and explain the regulations in place at the Seashore so visitors understand what is considered a violation.	
2.B. Education and Outreach for Local Interest Groups and Other Interested Citizens – Involve interested parties in disseminating information about the Seashore.	
2.B.1 Solicit from interested parties how to convey information about the species management program.	
2.B.2 Work with local organizations and businesses to ensure wider distribution of ORV and resource protection information.	

Education and Outreach

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
2.B.3 Encourage the Carteret County visitor information resource organizations to link their websites to the Seashore's website to ensure different segments of the visiting public have up-to-date information on beach closures and, if an ORV permitting system is developed, ORV permitting information.	
2.B.4 Work with ORV groups to develop and implement an ORV driver training program.	
2.B.5 Coordinate with fishing clubs to provide educational materials to members regarding ORV safety, use, etc.	
2.B.6 Provide information to appropriate business owners (tackle shops, filling stations, etc.).	
2.B.7 Involve local environmental groups in education and outreach.	

Education and Outreach

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential education and outreach options below:

3. Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.

3.A. Law Enforcement –

Ensure Seashore rules and regulations are followed for the benefit of public safety and resource protection.

3.A.1 Enforce proper trash disposal (pack in/pack out) and anti wildlife-feeding regulations throughout the Seashore. (<i>status quo</i>)	
3.A.2 Conduct periodic nighttime patrols to observe and enforce compliance with regulations and closures.	
3.A.3 Increase presence of law enforcement (LE) personnel on the beach by increasing staffing and by improving schedules and assignment of existing LE staff.	
3.A.4 Increase emphasis on patrolling resource closures and issuing violations for resource closure violations.	
3.A.5 Work with the Federal Court System to increase (or decrease) fines for violations to improve compliance.	
3.A.6 Evaluate current Seashore-wide speed limit of 25 mph to determine if any change is necessary.	
3.A.7 Enlist citizens as volunteers to provide information (including the beach ambassador programs) regarding rules and regulations of the Seashore.	
3.A.8 Establish and publicize a phone number the public can use to report violations on the beach.	

Law Enforcement

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential law enforcement options below:

4. ORV P_ermits

ORV Permits

Options	Comments
	<p>Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.</p>
4.A. Establish a Permit System – A permit system may be necessary as a tool that could be used to implement options such as driver, vehicle, equipment requirements, fee collection, and carrying capacity.	
4.A.1 Continue option of allowing vehicular beach access without requiring permits. (<i>status quo</i>)	
4.A.2 Establish a permit system for ORV use.	
4.B. Establish Driver and/or Vehicle Requirements for Permits (if a permit system is implemented) – To obtain a permit, drivers could be required to meet certain requirements.	
4.B.1 Require all drivers to have a state driver's license. (<i>status quo</i>)	
4.B.2 Require all drivers to be at least 16 years of age or older. (<i>status quo</i>)	
4.B.3 Require driver education. (i.e.- permit applicants watch an informational video before they are issued a permit. The video would provide education on Seashore resources, proper ORV driving techniques and regulations.)	
4.B.4 Develop a written "drivers test" that would be required before issuance of permit. The permit applicant would take this test after viewing a video either in person or on-line.	
4.B.5 Issue a driver's permit for driving on the seashore that must be carried on the person.	
4.B.6 Do not require any education or driver certification.	
4.B.7 Provide driver education on a voluntary basis only.	
4.B.8 Require a vehicle inspection by a park employee prior to obtaining a permit.	

ORV Permits

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
4.B.9 Provide an annual vehicle permit sticker that would be placed on the ORV bumper for permits showing that the vehicle has passed equipment requirements. A visible permit on the vehicles would encourage peer pressure and reporting of non-permitted vehicles.	
4.B.10 Only grant permits to privately registered vehicles.	
4.B.11 Require each ORV driver to register and declare length of stay at the Seashore.	
4.C. Permit Distribution (if a permit system is implemented) – Where visitors would be able to obtain permits.	
4.C.1 Issue permits only at NPS offices.	
4.C.2 Issue permits at NPS offices and at vehicle ferry departure areas (Atlantic and Davis).	
4.C.3 Make some or all of the permits available on-line.	
4.D. Permit Fees and Duration (if a permit system is implemented) – Permit fees could be charged to provide funding to manage portions of the beach driving program such as education, law enforcement, and species monitoring. Different options on the length of time a permit is valid (annual, monthly, weekly) may effect the number of opportunities that are available for obtaining permits, if a carrying capacity is established (see the examples presented using a sample carrying capacity of 400 vehicles per day).	
4.D.1 Charge permit fees on annual basis.	
4.D.2 Charge a permit fee based on duration of permit.	
4.D.3 Issue permits on an annual basis (for example: based on a 400 vehicles per day sample limit, only 400 annual permits can be issued).	

ORV Permits

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
4.D.4 Issue permits on a monthly basis (for example: based on a 400 vehicles per day sample limit, 3600 monthly permits can be issued).	
4.D.5 Issue permits on a weekly basis (for example: based on a 400 vehicles per day sample limit, 14400 weekly permits can be issued).	
4.D.6 Base permit fees partly on cost of administering the ORV management program. Use fees to fund the program.	
4.D.7 Adjust permit fees periodically (e.g., every 3-5 years) based partly on cost of administering the ORV management program.	
4.E. How Permits Might Apply to Seashore Locations and Other Options (if a permit system is implemented) – If a permit system is implemented, the area that the permit is issued to could be specified. If the number of permits is limited by a set carrying capacity, options for managing the limits and issuing permits would be needed.	
4.E.1 Issue permits for Seashore-wide access, valid for both North AND South Core Banks.	
4.E.2 Issue permits by island - North OR South Core Banks (color coded) to consider different carrying capacities for different islands.	
4.E.3 Issue permits by island AND for specific areas on each island, allowing management of congestion at the most popular fishing areas.	
4.E.4 If permits are limited by carrying capacity (see Section 5.A Carrying Capacity) and limits are reached, distribute them via a lottery.	
4.E.5 If permits are limited by carrying capacity (see Section 5.A Carrying Capacity) and limits are reached, distribute them based on a “first come, first serve” basis.	

ORV Permits

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
4.E.6 If permits are limited by carrying capacity (see Section 5.A Carrying Capacity), ensure at least one vehicle permit is available per cabin reservation.	
4.E.7 Provide a built-in periodic review process (2-5 years) to determine if the permitting system is functioning correctly.	
4.E.8 Revoke permits for certain violations (for example: drunk driving, unsafe operation, resource closure entry); permits would be revoked for one calendar year.	

ORV Permits

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential ORV permit options below:

5. Other ORV Management Issues

Other ORV Management Issues

Options	Comments
	<p>Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.</p>
5.A. Carrying Capacity – Type and level of ORV use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in the Seashore.	
5.A.1 Do not establish an ORV carrying capacity for the Seashore. (<i>status quo</i>)	
5.A.2 Establish an ORV carrying capacity for the Seashore.	
5.A.3 Establish an ORV carrying capacity for heavy use areas at the Seashore.	
5.A.4 Determine how many vehicles could fit at a certain beach area and restrict further beach access once this number is reached.	
5.A.5 Provide the ability to adjust an established ORV carrying capacity based on adaptive management.	
5.A.6 Determine ORV carrying capacity in part based on the economic viability of ferry operations.	
5.A.7 Determine ORV carrying capacity for North Core Banks and South Core Banks separately.	
5.A.8 Determine ORV carrying capacity seasonally.	
5.A.9 Maintain existing levels of ORV use as the carrying capacity.	
5.A.10 Provide justification of maintaining existing numbers until performance measures are met.	
5.A.11 Provide for increased visitation on holiday weekends with increased park staff on duty and increased closures to protect natural resources.	
5.A.12 Limit the number of vehicles allowed in highly congested areas during high visitation weekends.	

Other ORV Management Issues

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
5.A.13 Allow unlimited use of vehicles in the parking lots (i.e. they can come and go as they wish). (<i>status quo</i>)	
5.A.14 Limit the number of vehicles that can leave the parking lots and drive on the beach at any one time (i.e. tie the number of vehicles that can leave the parking lots to the carrying capacity of the beach, if a carrying capacity is established).	
5.B. Sanitation/Waste Management – Ways to keep the Seashore clean and help prevent unnecessarily attracting predators that might impact protected resources such as piping plovers and sea turtles.	
5.B.1 Keep a “trash-free” Seashore program (Leave No Trace) (visitor must remove all of their trash). (<i>status quo</i>)	
5.B.2 Provide dumpsters and restroom facilities only in developed areas.	
5.B.3 Evaluate dumpster locations and provide predator-proof dumpsters.	
5.B.4 Implement a trash cleanup plan and educational program.	
5.B.5 What suggestions do you have to dispose of fish carcasses that feed predators and increase predator populations?	
5.C. Accessibility – Ways to allow disabled visitors to enjoy the Seashore.	
5.C.1 Provide beach wheelchairs that can be checked out at the visitor center at the lighthouse. (<i>status quo</i>)	
5.C.2 Provide beach wheelchairs that can be checked out at other locations, such as Portsmouth, Long Point, and Great Island.	

Other ORV Management Issues

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential other ORV management options below:

6. Species Protection

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.A. Establish Resource Protection Areas, Closures, and Buffers – Ways to protect threatened and endangered species and species of special concern in compliance with the Threatened and Endangered Species Act and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations.	
6.A.1 Adopt all of the Interim Protected Species Management Plan actions. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.2 Only adopt specific portions of the Interim Protected Species Management Plan. Individual resource protection measures of the Plan are listed below as “(<i>status quo</i>).” Please comment on the measures you would like to see adopted or changed.	
6.A.3 Establish 10 square foot full recreation closure for American oystercatcher nest if nest in an area subject to ORV or pedestrian traffic. The areas will remain closed until the chicks fledge or are lost (typically August 15). (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.4 Establish closures in recent breeding areas for piping plover that are adapted to current habitat and physiographic conditions on April 1. Remove closures if no bird activity is seen by July 15. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.5 Establish a 150-foot buffer around piping plovers observed in courtship or copulations outside an existing closure. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.6 Establish a 150-foot buffer/closure around piping plover nests occurring outside existing closures and expand closures when necessary, using flexible increments dependent on bird behavior. Areas will remain closed until the chicks fledge or are lost. (<i>status quo</i>)	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.A.7 Establish a buffer/closure of 150 feet around colonial waterbird nests or colonies, based on observed bird behavior. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.8 Establish 150-foot closures for colonial nesting waterbirds when a territory is established or a nest located beginning April 1. Remove closures once all chicks have fledged or are lost. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.9 Establish ORV closures for colonial waterbirds in historic least tern and black skimmer nesting areas and any potential new habitat outside of existing closures. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.10 Establish ORV closures around all emergent seabeach amaranth plants. Size of closure to be based on best professional judgment but with at least a 30-foot buffer around the plant. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.A.11 Establish buffers around unfledged chicks. For piping plover the ORV buffer would be a minimum of 600-feet on either side of the brood. For American oystercatcher, establish ramp-to-ramp ORV closures if chicks are present on the beach, unless no backroad is present, then ORVs would be allowed at 15mph with signs warning drivers of flightless chicks in the area. For colonial nesting waterbirds, establish an ORV closure that provides at least a 150-foot buffer around broods when chicks are present at Cape Lookout Point Beach. In other areas, route traffic around ORV closures if chicks are in danger or being run over. (<i>status quo</i>)	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.A.12 Establish a funnel shaped ORV closure from a sea turtle nest to 15 feet below high tide line. ORV closure is 30 feet wide at nest; 60 feet wide below high tide line, with a minimum 10-foot buffer duneward of nest, an approximately 30 feet by 30 feet buffer around sea turtle nests. Approximately 50 to 55 days into incubation, expand closure to the surfline. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.13 Establish pre-nesting closures (i.e., before birds arrive) for colonial waterbirds in previously used areas that are used regularly, if the site still contains suitable habitat. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.14 Establish pre-nesting closures for piping plover in suitable habitat used during the last 10 years. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.15 Establish a 300-foot buffer around unfledged American oystercatcher chicks that moves with the brood. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.16 Close either the beach or the backroad to vehicular access when American oystercatcher chicks are present. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.17 Allow night driving on the Seashore to continue without limitations. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.18 Relocate turtle nests laid at or below the high tide line or in areas where they are likely to be washed away or are in danger of erosion. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.19 Utilize screens or cages to protect turtle nests and prevent egg loss to predators. <i>(status quo)</i>	
6.A.20 Erect 2-foot high plywood barriers behind and to the sides of the nest 10 days before estimated hatch date for nests in locations deemed to be vulnerable to light pollution. <i>(status quo)</i>	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.A.21 Establish a 300 to 400-foot buffer around American oystercatcher nests (this may close large portions of the beach to through traffic).	
6.A.22 Establish a 600-foot buffer around unfledged American oystercatcher chicks that moves with the brood (this will likely close large portions of the beach to through traffic).	
6.A.23 Establish a 300-foot buffer around colonial waterbird nests at the outside edge of the colony (if only least terns are present in the colony). Establish a 600-foot buffer from the outside edge of the colony if other tern species or black skimmer nests are present in the colony.	
6.A.24 Establish a 300-foot buffer around unfledged colonial waterbird chicks at the outside edge of the colony (if only least terns are present in the colony). Establish a 600-foot buffer from the outside edge of the colony if other tern species or black skimmer nests are present in the colony.	
6.A.25 Close all resting/roosting and foraging habitats used by non-breeding piping plovers within 150 feet to ORVs and recreation activity.	
6.A.26 Identify and establish migration/winter closures for piping plovers (e.g. northern 1.5 miles of North Core Banks).	
6.A.27 Establish turtle-friendly lighting standards for all Seashore (NPS) structures, where applicable.	
6.A.28 Encourage concessioners to install turtle friendly lighting, where applicable.	
6.A.29 Provide the flexibility to “un-designate” and reopen a resource area through adaptive management if it ceases to be suitable habitat or to designate a new area that has become suitable habitat.	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.A.30 Prohibit ORV night driving on the beach and backroad during turtle nesting season from May 1 – August 31 from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.	
6.A.31 Prohibit ORV night driving on the beach and backroad from May 1 – September 30 from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise (the expanded timeframe protects turtle hatchlings from being disoriented by vehicle lights).	
6.A.32 Prohibit ORV night driving on beach during turtle nesting season from May 1 – August 31 from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Allow ORV access on backroad.	
6.A.33 Prohibit ORV night driving on beach from May 1 – September 30 from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Allow ORV access on backroad (the expanded timeframe protects turtle hatchlings from being disoriented by vehicle lights).	
6.A.34 Prohibit night driving, 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunup, at the Seashore year round.	
6.A.35 Prohibit camping and campfires in turtle nest relocation areas (50 days after the first nest is relocated to the area until after the last hatchlings have hatched) to prevent disturbance of hatchlings from artificial lights.	
6.A.36 Establish a 150-foot buffer around American oystercatcher and colonial waterbirds exhibiting territorial or courting behaviors.	
6.A.37 Based on historical habitat (habitat used during the past 3 years) establish pre-nesting closures for American oystercatcher and colonial waterbirds outside of those areas on the spits/points already closed for	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
<p>pipin plover nesting. As more data becomes available, the definition of historical habitat would be expanded up to a maximum of 10 years.</p>	
<p>6.A.38 Use the Interim Protected Species Management Plan as a starting point. Identify limitations/concerns with it and revise accordingly.</p>	
<p>6.B. Regulate Pet Access – Ways to ensure that pets do not impact/disturb protected species.</p>	
<p>6.B.1 Pets must be crated, caged, restrained on a leash, or otherwise physically confined at all times in all areas of the Seashore. (<i>status quo</i>)</p>	
<p>6.B.2 Allow pets on a leash in all locations except within full recreational closure areas where pets are strictly prohibited. (<i>status quo</i>)</p>	
<p>6.B.3 Ban pets from the seashore year round, excluding hunting dogs if owners are hunting.</p>	
<p>6.B.4 Ban pets from the seashore during bird nesting periods from April 1 – August 15.</p>	
<p>6.B.5 If an ORV permit system is instituted, off-leash violations will result in revocation of permit for one calendar year.</p>	
<p>6.C. Implement Additional Research Programs – Ways to gather more information about the protected species and other natural resources of the Seashore so they can be effectively managed.</p>	
<p>6.C.1 Develop a local program with USFWS to band and track piping plovers to improve identification of breeding pairs and obtain a long-term analysis on the effect of ORVs and other factors on piping plover.</p>	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.C.2 Conduct local research to determine causes of piping plover chick mortality.	
6.C.3 Conduct local research to determine the impact of ORVs on the beach ecosystem as a whole (e.g., food sources).	
6.C.4 Work with USFWS, other national seashores, and state wildlife agencies to develop shorebird websites so agencies and the public can track migration up and down the coast of tagged shorebirds.	
6.C.5 Continue to study the impacts of visitor and ORV use at the Seashore on natural resources.	
6.C.6 Continue to measure the impact of ORVs on beach birds.	
6.D. Other Management Related to Species Protection – Address other means of protecting Seashore resources.	
6.D.1 Prohibit all fireworks in the Seashore at all times. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.D.2 Develop and implement predator control plan on islands within next 5 years.	
6.D.3 Allow pedestrian traffic in ORV closures, but not in full resource closures. (<i>status quo</i>)	
6.D.4 Establish criteria for designating ORV routes where there would be the least conflict with resources.	
6.D.5 Prohibit beach fires 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.	

Species Protection

Options	Comments
	Please provide additional comments on the option, including how this option could be changed or improved. If you feel this option would be more appropriate in one location or another, please state where, and why.
6.D.6 Establish non-kite boarding zones around resource closures (i.e., have no-launch zones in locations where kite boards, if launched there, might travel into the resource areas). Partner with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to establish regulations for kite boarding in waters adjacent to high priority resource areas.	
6.D.7 Prohibit kite boarders from launching or landing on the Seashore during bird nesting season (April 1 – August 15).	
6.D.8 Prohibit kite flying during bird nesting season (April 1 – August 15).	
6.D.9 Identify opportunities for habitat restoration or enhancement.	
6.D.10 Increase core resource management staffing on a year-round basis, instead of relying so heavily on seasonal employees.	

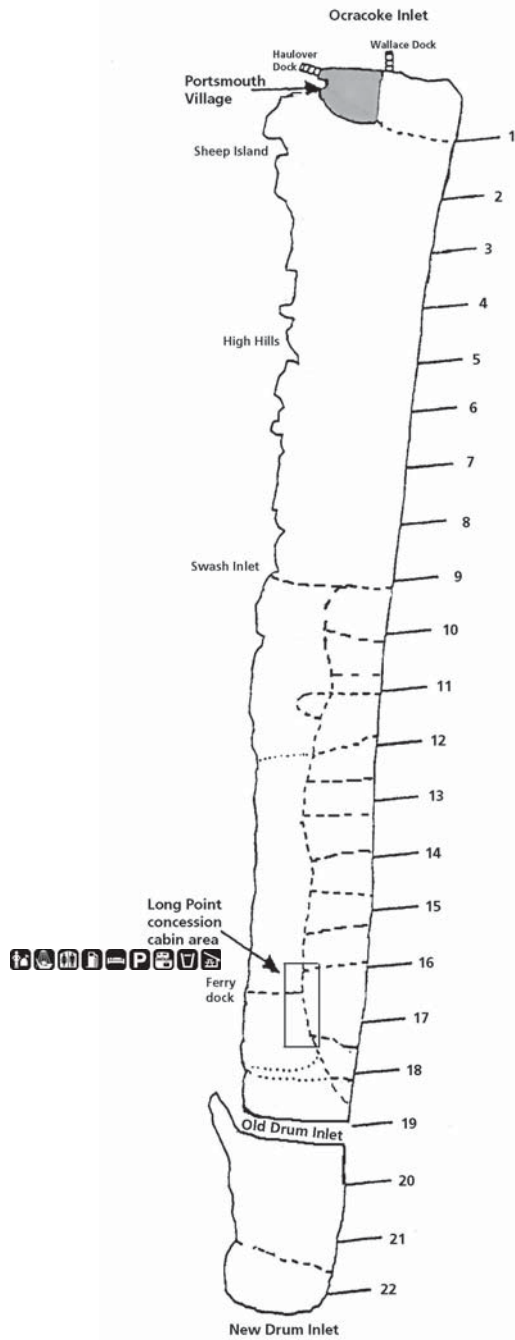
Species Protection

Please provide any additional comments you have regarding potential species protection options below:

V. Maps of Cape Lookout National Seashore



North Core Banks and Middle Core Banks



South Core Banks and "Ophelia" Island

